

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 ACDA-07 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 MCT-01

DHA-02 ORM-02 SAJ-01 EB-07 /106 W
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R 301611Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4685

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BOMM

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 3926

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT: DEFENSE VISITS

REF: BAMAKO 2975

1. FRG AMBASSADOR TELLS US THAT VISIT OF PARLIAMENTARY
SECRETARY OF STATE SCHMIDT HERE AUGUST 19-24 WAS BASICALLY
GOOD-WILL SOJOURN ALTHOUGH OCCASION ALSO USED TO WRAP UP
SOME DETAILS OF ONGOING GERMAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM. SCHMIDT GOT VERY HIGH LEVEL TREATMENT AT
DEFENSE MINISTER IDRISSE AROUNA (REGIME'S NUMBER TWO
MAN) ACTING AS HOST AND WITH CHIEF OF STAFF ALI
CHAIBOU IN CONSTANT ATTENDANCE IN NIAMEY AND DURING
ONE-DAY VISIT TO AGADEZ. PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE
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RECEIVED SCHMIDT FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM NAC.

2. RENEWAL OF GERMANY MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
FOR SUM OF DM 6 MILLION OVER NEXT TWO YEARS QAS APPARENTLY
NEGOTIATED IN JUNE AT BONN BETWEEN FRG AND GON. SCHMIDT'S
VISIT SERVED PURPOSE OF SECURING AGREEMENT ON SPECIFIC
ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN 1976-1978 PACKAGE. PRIME GERMANY
MILITARY ACTIVITY IN NIGER OVER LAST FEW YEARS HAS BEEN SUPPORT OF
ARMY ROAD BUILDING AND ENGINEERING EFFORTS. NEW PROGRAM
WILL FUND MOSTLY HEAVY EQUIPMENT, TOOLS, SPARES AND MAINTENANCE.
PROGRAM ALSO COVERS MAINTENANCE (IN GERMANY) OF FOUR
TRANSALL AIRCRAFT WHICH FRG PROVIDES TO NIGER ARMY.
LATTER ITEM RUNS TO SOME 700,000 DM PER YEAR. FINAL VEGERMANS SEND SMA
LL NUMBER OF NIGERIEN ARMY ENGINEERS
TO FEDERAL REPUBLIC FOR TRAINING. GERMAN MILITARY
PRESENCE CONSISTS OF ONE OFFICER AND THREE NON-COMS,
WHO SUPERVISE ABOVE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.

3. FRG AMBASSADOR SAYS SCHMIDT TOOK OPPORTUNITY OF
MEETING WITH KOUNTCHE TO NOTE (WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS FROM BONN)
CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE LATTER HAD PLAYED AT NON-
ALIGNED CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, AMBASSADOR ADDED THAT BONN
REALLY DOES THINK NIGER IS PLAYING A SOMEWHAT HELPFUL
ROLE ON ONE OR TWO UN ISSUES-I.E., HUMAN RIGHTS AND
TERRORISM. APPRECIATION WAS DULY EXPRESSED TO KOUNTCHE
DURING SCHMIDT VISIT. AMBASSADOR TELLS US SOVIETS
AND CHINESE HAVE BEEN KEENLY INTERESTED IN VISIT AND
HAVE APPARENT DIFFICULTY BELIEVING THAT A SMALL
CIVIL ACTION PROGRAM IS ALL THAT GERMAN MILITARY IS
UNDERTAKING HERE. DAVISON

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